

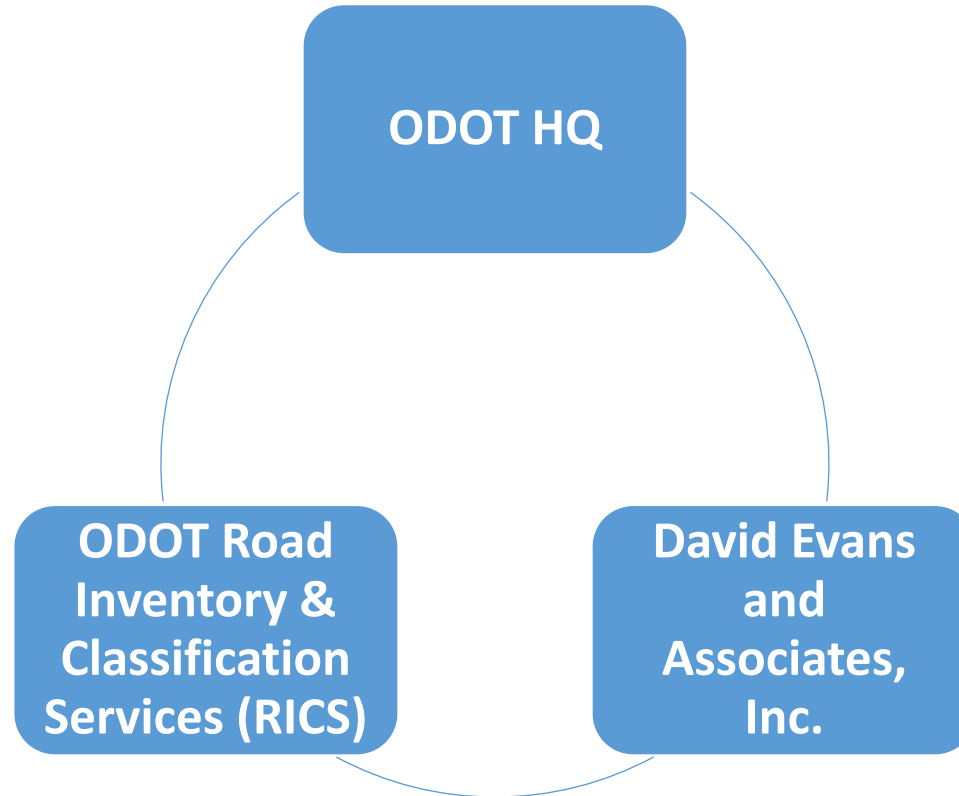
ODOT Federal Urban Aid Boundary and Functional Classification Update

RVACT

July 11, 2023



Project Management Team



Introduction

- The Census revises urban areas every 10 years based on population counts from the decennial census.
- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires state DOTs use the census data/revised urban areas to review and update all Federal Aid Urban Boundaries (FAUB)
- Along with FAUB updates, a review and update of the federal functional classification (FFC) is also completed.
 - *FFC updates can (and should) be done at any time – no need to wait!*



What are FAUBs?

- Federal Aid Urban Boundaries (FAUB) are boundaries that FHWA uses to distinguish between urban and rural for FHWA programs, including Federal Functional Classification (FFC).
- 2020 FHWA Urban Area Definition is population of at least 5,000
- ODOT has historically adjusted the census-defined urban boundaries to better serve transportation planning needs.



What are FFCs?

- Federal Functional Classification (FFC) groups streets and roadways by similar characteristics of mobility and/or land access.
FHWA Guidance:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway_functional_classifications/section00.cfm
- FFC carries with it expectations about roadway design, including its speed, capacity and relationship to existing and future land use development.
 - This process does not change local roadway standards.
- Federal legislation uses FFC to determine eligibility for funding for most FHWA funding categories, including Federal Aid
- All functional classifications except Rural Minor Collectors and Local roads are eligible for Federal Aid.



Why does this matter?

The following FHWA programs distinguish between urban and rural areas and are impacted by adjustments to FAUBs:

- **Highway Functional Classification**
- **Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Reporting**
- **Critical Freight Corridors**
- **STBG Apportionment Formula:** Urban area boundary adjustments affect where funds may be spent within a State, not how much funding the State receives.
- **STBG Special Rule for Areas Less Than 50,000**
- **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Traffic Congestion Performance Measures**
- **Control of Outdoor Advertising**



Why does this matter?

States, MPOs, and local governments may choose to make boundary adjustments for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to:

- Aligning urban area boundaries with existing planning boundaries (e.g., MPA boundaries, local municipal boundaries),
- Addressing irregularities in urban area boundary shapes,
- Maintaining consistency with highway functional classifications,
- Including transit routes and/or traffic generators,
- Incorporating local knowledge of urban form (e.g., current and future land use), and/or
- Fostering an inclusive, effective, and comprehensive transportation planning process



Who Helps on the Project ?

Project Management Team - **PMT**

ODOT APM, RICS & **Consultant**

Draft & Implement Work Plan
Statewide Coordination

Region Primary Contacts - **RPC**

Region Planning Managers
(or Designee)

Liaison w/
MPOs/
LPAs

Local Public Agencies - LPA

MPOs

Standing Technical Advisory Committee

FAUB/FFC Updates within MPO Areas

Cities

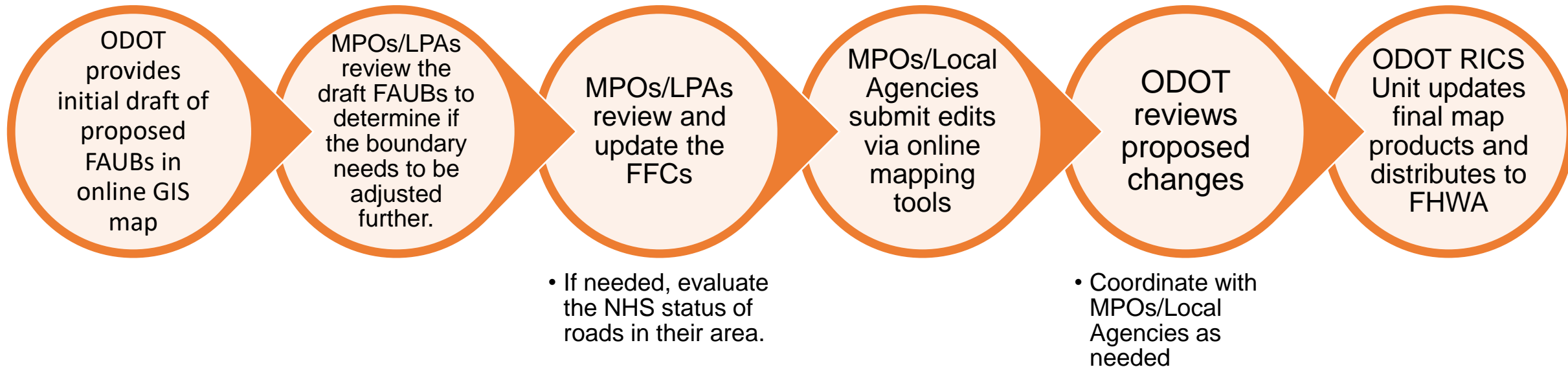
Local Government Representatives

Adjust/Confirm recommended adjustments to FAUBs and FFCs

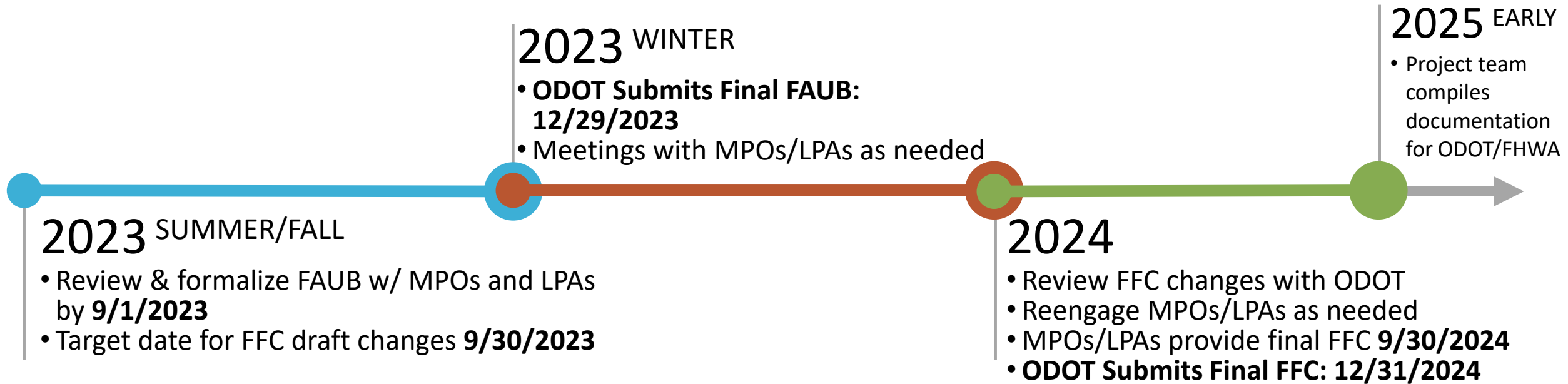
Counties*

* Counties help coordinate FC crossover to intra-county urban areas and neighboring rural counties

Process



Project Schedule



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

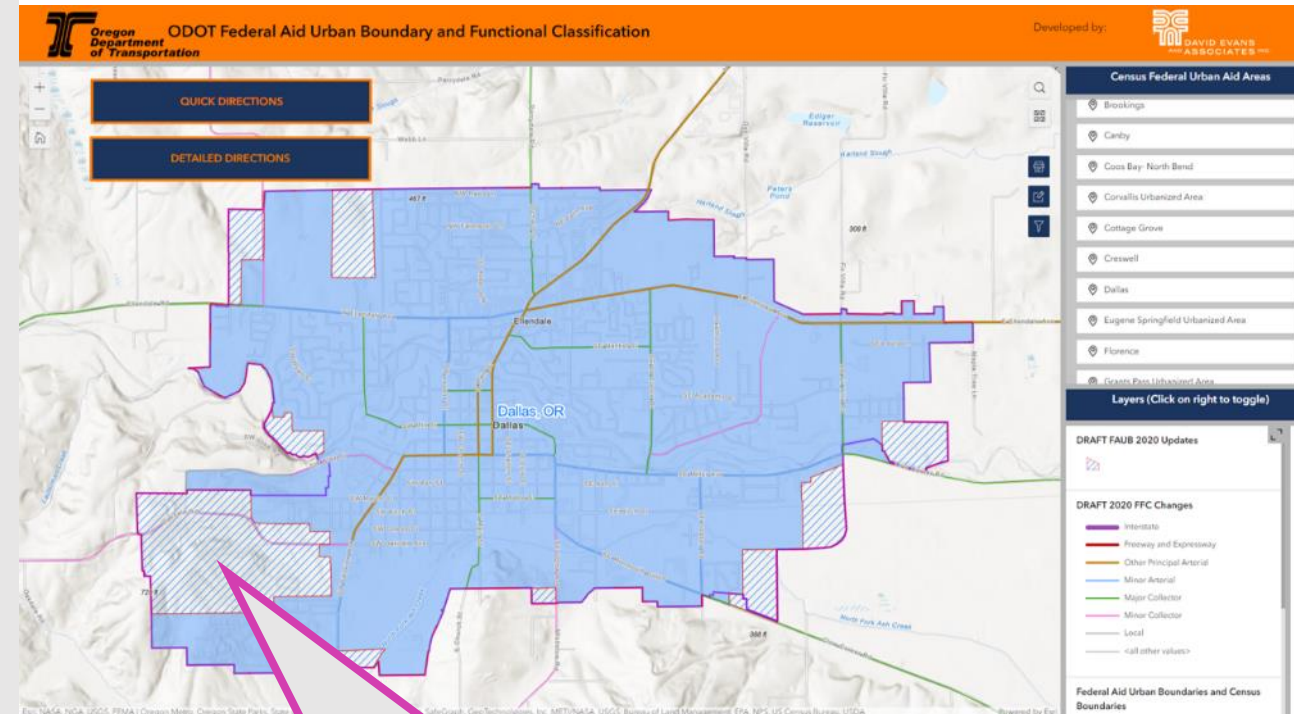
- ▶ **FAUBs must be finalized this year**
- ▶ Most FFCs changes should be identified by 2023, allowing time for collaboration on any complex changes before the end of 2024.

Federal Aid Urban Boundaries - Updates

Reasons to expand

- Align with existing planning boundaries
- Incorporate local knowledge of landscape
- Address irregularities in the boundary shapes
- Maintain consistency with highway functional classifications

• EXAMPLE: Dallas



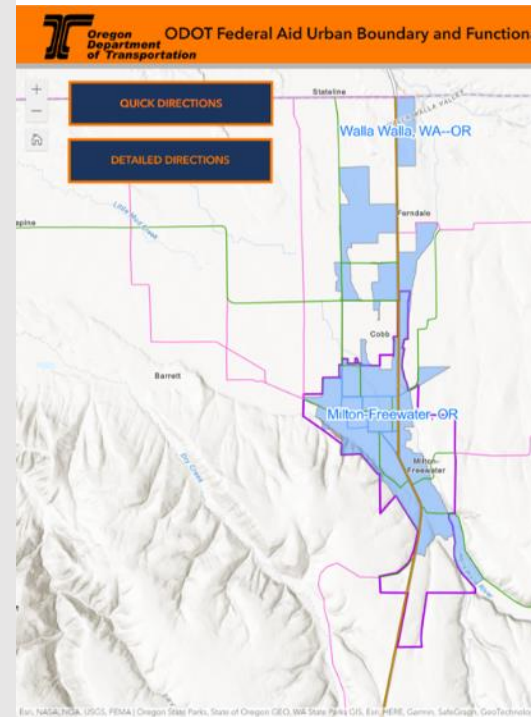
Basic infill of Dallas UGB

Federal Aid Urban Boundaries - Updates

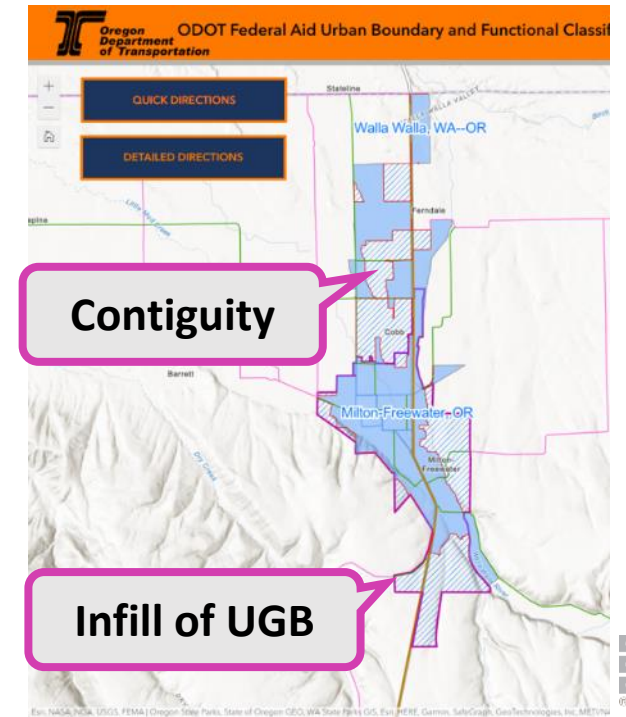
Adjustment Considerations

- Include entire municipality
- Include areas with urban characteristics
- Includes significant traffic generators
- Boundaries should be simple, without irregularities
- Boundaries should not split roadways or ramps
- Boundaries should be one contiguous area

• EXAMPLE: Milton-Freewater



From Census



FAUB Team Refinements



FAUBs and MPOs

- If an urban area is located outside of an MPO's MPA, the local agencies coordinate urban area adjustments with ODOT
- If an urban area is within an MPO's MPA, local agencies coordinate with their MPO and ODOT.
- MPO boundaries can include multiple urbanized areas
- Requirement: An urbanized Area that is in an MPO boundary must be covered entirely by one or more MPO boundaries.

Common Errors in Adjusting Boundaries

- Boundaries do not encompass Census Bureau urban area
- One adjusted urban area is not associated with one census urban area
- Failure to coordinate in adjusting multi-state urban areas
- Adjustment of Census urban areas need to be defined by the latest urban areas (2020, not 2010)
 - Previous decennial Census Urban Areas are irrelevant
 - Start with the latest (2020) decennial Census urban areas



Federal Functional Classification - Updates

- Maintain consistency with functional classifications
- Avoid roads jumping in and out of rural/urban areas.
- Must reflect the **current** function.

• EXAMPLE: Milton-Freewater

The screenshot displays the ODOT Federal Aid Urban Boundary and Functional Classification web application. The main map shows the Milton-Freewater area with various road segments highlighted in different colors (green, blue, purple, orange). Two 'Edit feature' forms are overlaid on the map, showing the process of updating the Federal Functional Classification (FFC) for a road segment.

Form 1 (Left):

- AGENCY INFORMATION - information about agency requesting change**
- AGENCY: City of Milton-Freewater
- REQUESTOR: M-F Lead
- REQUESTOR TITLE: FWD
- REQUESTOR PHONE: 541-999-9999
- REQUESTED DATE: MM/DD/YYYY
- FFC CHANGE REQUEST - information required to request a change**
- ROAD NAME: Freewater Highway
- EXISTING OR PLANNED: Existing Roadway

Form 2 (Right):

- FFC CHANGE REQUEST - information required to request a change**
- ROAD NAME: Freewater Highway
- EXISTING OR PLANNED: Existing Roadway
- CITY: Milton-Freewater
- COUNTY: Umatilla County
- TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLAN: Milton-Freewater TSP
- JURISDICTION: ODOT
- FFC TYPE PROPOSED:** Minor Arterial

Example Demonstration in Webinar



Examples

For statewide consistency, and as an attempt to reduce the burden on local agencies, the PMT has prepared draft “smoothed” FAUB boundaries for MPO/LPA review. The ODOT smoothing process began with the 2020 Census cluster boundary as the federally-required minimum. ODOT also included the broadest extent of each of the following layers in the smoothed boundaries:

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary
- MPO (most recent version available)
- 2010 FAUB (as reference)



How to use the web tool

- **Project team has prepared instructions within the webmap**
- **GIS edits are preferred, but we can be flexible if changes need to be submitted another way**
 - **GIS Shapefiles**
 - **External excel files (similar to 2010)**
 - **Marked up PDFs/maps**



Q & A

- Questions?

